

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /088 W

----- 008728

R 130658Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0184

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0185

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR QA BA ENRG

SUBJECT : AMIR OF QATAR'S COMMENTS ON TERRITORIAL DISPUTE
WITH BAHRAIN

1. DURING FEB 11 CONVERSATION ON PROSPECTS FOR GULF UNITY (SEPTEL), AMIR OF QATAR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI, EXPRESSED DISCOURAGEMENT OVER LACK OF PROGRESS IN SOLVING QATAR-BAHRAIN TERRITORIAL DISPUTE OVER HAWAR ISLAND. KHALIFA REITERATED ACCUSATION THAT GOB'S "LEFTIST" FOREIGN MINISTER, MUHAMMAD BIN MUBARAK AL KHALIFA, WAS IMPEDING RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM. AMIR CONTENDED THAT ALTHOUGH SHAYKH ISSA APPEARED AMENABLE TO SETTLEMENT, HE REMAINED UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO IMPOSE HIS VIEWS.

2. KHALIFA SAID THAT GOB HAD COLD SHOULDERED ALL EFFORTS TO
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REACH REASONABLE SOLUTION, EVEN HIS SUGGESTION THAT DISPUTE BE

SET ASIDE INDEFINITELY SO THAT TWO COUNTRIES COULD GET ON WITH NORMAL RELATIONS. AMIR SAID TWO COUNTRIES HAD MUCH TO OFFER EACH OTHER IN WAY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. HE REGRETTED PRESENT FROZEN STATE OF AFFAIRS BUT FOUND HIMSELF STYMIED AND SAD RATHER THAN ANGRY ABOUT SITUATION.

3. COMMENT: APPRECIATE AMB TWINAM'S CAUTIONING EXXON REPS ABOUT TROUBLE POTENTIAL OF POSSIBLE OIL CONCESSION FROM GOB IN AREA OF HAWAR ISLAND. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY US/GERMAN JOINT VENTURE WHICH HAS BEEN DOING SEISMIC EXPLORATION FOR GOQ OFF-SHORE IN HAWAR AREA THAT THEY WERE SPECIFICALLY TOLD BY QATARIS NOT TO PLAN TO DRILL IN DISPUTED AREA.
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